

# The Democratic Standard.

DEVOTED TO THE SUPPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS—THE DIFFUSION OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE—AND THE REFORM OF ALL POLITICAL ABUSES.

BY D. P. PALMER.

GEORGETOWN, O., TUESDAY AUGUST 20, 1844.

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## From the Ohio Statesman.

S. MEDARY, Esq.

On the day before yesterday, Gov. Corwin addressed a whig meeting in this town. In the course of his speech he took occasion to say, that Texas had a treaty with Great Britain, by which the products of the latter were admitted into the former, on payment of a mere nominal duty; that if Texas came into the American Union, this treaty would continue in full force, and under its provisions, the British could, through the Texian ports, introduce just what goods they pleased among us. Furthermore, as the Constitution of the United States declares, that "all duties, imposts, and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States"—New York, New Orleans and every other Atlantic city could demand the same privileges as Galveston and other ports, formerly belonging to the Texian Republic. All our revenue laws and tariff regulations would thus be abrogated; we should necessarily resort to direct taxes for the support of the federal government, and find ourselves deprived of the power to protect our own industry, against the "pauper labor of Europe." These consequences he regarded as legitimate fruits of the election of Gov. Polk to the Presidency. He stated that Lord Aberdeen had recently said in the British House of Commons, that, by the law of Nations, this English Treaty would be binding upon the United States, after they had admitted Texas into the Union; and (Gov. Corwin) concurred in this opinion!

Had this ground been assumed by some small rate politician of the whig party, I should not have noticed it. The labors of Hercules could scarcely contradict all the fallacies and misrepresentations propagated by men of that stamp. But Gov. Corwin stands high in the legal profession; and from his long connexion of public affairs, may be supposed to have some acquaintance with the law of Nations. A declaration of this kind from such a man is likely to have influence upon the public mind—when erroneous, as it is in this instance, it should be contradicted and its unsoundness exposed.

I shall neither trouble you with a long argument to prove the absurdity of his position, nor with a formidable array of authorities to show that the law of Nations is against him. A few references to Vattel, a standard writer upon National law, will be sufficient for my purpose.

I. Book II, chapter XII, section 183, Vattel declares, that all Treaties are either personal or real. Personal treaties or alliances are usually made by Kings for maintaining each other upon their respective Thrones, or for some similar purpose of a personal character. Real treaties are for the State, or King; and subsist as long as the State; unless their duration is otherwise limited.

In the same chapter, sec. 191, it is said, that in personal treaties, if one of the parties die, or cease to reign, the treaty is at an end; and the reason is obvious; for, in the latter case, although he still lives, as a man, he is no longer a King; and it was in THAT CHARACTER he made the treaty. In chapter XIII, sec. 203, it is declared, that inasmuch as a personal treaty expires at the death of a King, (or on his ceasing to reign) so, a REAL treaty is abolished, if one of the allied nations is destroyed; not only if the man who compose it happens to perish, but also, if it loses, from any cause whatsoever, its national quality, or the quality of a political and independent society. When a State is destroyed and the people dispersed or subdued by a conqueror, ALL THEIR TREATIES PERISH, with the "public power" that had contracted them. The men may remain, but their separate independent existence, as a political community is destroyed, and their treaties all perish with that. Again, in chapter XII, section 170, Vattel says, "when a people are forced by (others) to receive laws, they may legally renounce their preceding treaties, if be with whom they are constrained to enter into an alliance require it of them. As they lose a part of their sovereignty, their ancient treaties fall with the power that concluded them. This is a necessity that cannot

be imputed to them; and since they had a right to submit themselves absolutely, and to renounce all sovereignty, it became necessary for their preservation, by a much stronger reason, they have a right under the same necessity to abandon their allies."

If Texas comes into the American Union, it will be from motives of self preservation. She will be constrained to this change of condition by an overruling state necessity. By annexation, she not only loses "part of her sovereignty," but she loses it all—nay, her very existence, as a distinct people. Her national identity is gone—and in the language of Vattel, her treaties all perish with the public power that contracted them.

I forbear to remark on all the inconsistencies that follow in the train of this whig proposition; and will notice only—the folly of supposing—that if two nations choose to incorporate themselves into one—each having separate and variant treaties with Great Britain—an old nation, containing twenty millions of people, must throw away its treaty, and adopt the one made by the young nation, containing a hundred thousand inhabitants. If one of the treaties must be abandoned, because they are inconsistent with each other, which ought it to be, the one made long since with a great nation like the present United States; or the one recently concluded, with the little Republic of Texas?

It is scarcely necessary to observe, that the debts which Texas owes, the grants of land she has made, &c., stand upon an entirely different footing from her political and commercial treaties. We would be morally bound to confirm the grants and pay the debts; whether express provision were made for them in the treaty of annexation or not. The distinction between pecuniary contracts and commercial treaties regulating national intercourse, rests upon principles which are familiar to every Statesman, who is conversant with the writers on public law. We receive the public domain subject to all previous grants made by the Republic; and if the proceeds of their lands have been pledged to creditors for the payment of debts incurred by the Texian Revolution, we take the conveyance subject to this prior incumbrance. The transactions of governments, in such cases, in regard to property, are like those of individuals; and the reciprocal rights and obligations arising from them are of a similar character.

In the hope that this letter will get ahead of Gov. Corwin who I am told, is everywhere discussing this question, as he did here, I remain,

Your obd't serv't.

TH. L. HAMER.

Georgetown, O., Aug. 2, 1844.

## HENRY CLAY'S GAMBLING.

Numerous are the anecdotes told in Kentucky in relation to Mr. Clay's good luck and adroitness at playing cards for money. His wealth has been attributed more to his success at the card table than to his practice as a lawyer or his profits as a farmer.

Nobody in Kentucky, doubts Mr. Clay's fondness for Euchre and Brag, and that at the latter his winnings have been great, but it is not easy, from the nature of the transactions, to prove particulars. Many incidents connected with his games are circulated in private circles, and generally believed, which are doubtless founded in truth, though embellished with fictitious circumstances, which Madame Rumor, that industrious whig, knows how to invent.

Who has not heard how Mr. Clay beat the British Minister at Ghent in playing cards, almost as badly as Gen. Jackson beat the British army at New Orleans at a more serious game? While the General was compelled to pay a thousand dollars out of his own pocket for serving his country the Negotiator was said to have come home with pockets well filled with British gold, the spoils of his gambling victories.

But a few years ago the following anecdote was circulated and believed: Mr. Clay was at the Olympian Springs in Kentucky, during the watering season. A Presbyterian Preacher, a great admirer of his, though he had never seen him, was passing through the village and having a great desire to see the object of his admiration, inquired where he could be found, and was directed to one of the cabins. It was the Sabbath day, and all around was quiet. He approached the cabin meditating whether he should find the great statesman reading the Bible, or engaged in religious devotion. He rapped at the door and it was opened by a tall man with a broad mouth, wandering look, and a flushed face, holding the door in one hand, and a few cards in the other, while three other gentlemen sat at the table within. "I wish to see Mr. Clay," said the Preacher. "I am Mr. Clay," said the tall man; "Walk in, sir, walk in." The Preacher

excused himself, and retired with a heavy heart.

We do not vouch for the truth of these details, but we believe something of the sort actually occurred.

There is another incident of early occurrence, the truth of which we do not doubt. At his favorite game of Brag, Mr. Clay was confronted by an adversary as bold as himself. The hands had been dealt, and the spirit of the game ran so high, that Mr. Clay bragged property in Lexington worth fifty to a hundred thousand dollars. If the game was played he was sure to lose. One of his family connections was present, who perceiving how the matter stood, contrived to slip a card out of Mr. Clay's hand, while the adversary's attention was attracted in another direction, and our honorable gamster said it was a misdeal! By this fraud his property was saved, and we have often heard it mentioned in Kentucky as a clever trick.

We believe that Mr. Clay's avidity for card-playing has not abated. Such is the impression of those who are around him.

## Exchange Paper.

From the Ohio Statesman.

## SOUTHERN DICTATION.

Mr. Clay's second letter, informing his astounded friends that "PERSONALLY HE CAN HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE ANNEXATION," has put a new feature upon the contest. His friends are dumfounded, and floundering about to see what new turn they may take next. Before killing themselves with rage, we advise them to crack the following nuts from the "Hickory Tree":

SOUTHERN DICTATION.—The federal leaders (as a last resort) are using their dirtiest to get up the belief that Mr. Polk was forced upon the democracy through "southern dictation." In this, like most other cases, the federalists have no facts to prove their statement. On the contrary, the truth is that, at the Baltimore convention, General Cass was the favorite of the southern delegates. On the ballot immediately preceding the last, almost THE WHOLE SOUTH had united upon General Cass, and his nomination on the last ballot, was prevented only by the free States (Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Ohio, &c.) leading off in favor of Mr. Polk! The delegation from New Hampshire were the first to nominate and vote for Mr. Polk.

But how was it at the Baltimore whig convention? Was there any "southern dictation" there?

In the selection of a candidate for Vice President, what kind of influence laid John Sergeant of Pennsylvania upon the shelf?

Who ostracized the far famed Millard Fillmore of New York?

Who vetoed "honest John Davis" of old Federal Massachusetts?

And lastly,—through what influence and by whose dictation was the carcass of Theodore Frelinghuysen exhumed from its political resting place.

These questions can all be answered "by the book." The Baltimore correspondent of the New York (whig) American says:

"The States which voted from the beginning for Frelinghuysen, were New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, 1 from New York, and 2 each from Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky."

Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, in writing from Baltimore, shamelessly acknowledges that—

"THE MATTER WAS SUBSTANTIALLY SETTLED IN A MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN MEMBERS LAST EVENING."

Thus it seems, according to unimpeachable WHIG AUTHORITY, that the nomination of Theodore Frelinghuysen was substantially settled by SOUTHERN MEMBERS,—and that the whole North was against him, except New Jersey and one vote from New York! Truly, the federal cant about "southern dictation" comes with a poor grace from those who were forced to abandon "honest John Davis" because "the matter was substantially settled in a meeting of the Southern members last evening!"—Hickory Tree.

## AN EXPLOSION COMING!

We understand that the articles which appeared in the Madisonian, reflecting severely upon the character of Henry Clay, and were published while Mr. Webster was Secretary of State, anonymously, are to appear again, shortly, with the author's name attached, viz: "DANIEL WEBSTER."—[Boston Post.

If this be so, it will be another evidence that "our union is perfect," as Mr. Webster says.

## Circular to the Mechanics of the State.

For a number of years a large portion of the mechanics of the State of Ohio, have felt themselves injured by the law regulating convict labor in the Penitentiary.

By the provisions of that law the Directors and Warden are authorized to employ the convicts in a manner most profitable to the State. In the performance of their duty they have contracted the men to individuals at from twenty-five to forty cents per day, to be employed at the different branches of mechanism now carried on in the State. It does not require much reasoning to show, that the Mechanics, in the vicinity of the Institution, and along the water navigation, cannot compete with those who hold contracts for convict labor.

We are thus deprived measurably of gaining a livelihood. Now we would ask, is this right? We have believed it to be wrong, and have endeavored to remedy the evil.

A Convention was held on the fourth day of July last, in Newark, Licking county, for the purpose of concentrating our efforts to procure a change in the law of which we complain. That Convention was numerously attended, and the spirit manifested on that occasion, gives us hope that "we WILL succeed," in our efforts, if we will be true to the cause in which we are engaged.

The Convention there assembled, appointed the undersigned, Committee for the State, with instructions to call upon the Mechanics throughout the State, to cooperate with us.

In obedience to our instructions we call upon you to come forward and assist in erasing that foul blot from our statute books.

The Convention, also, unanimously passed a resolution, pledging each member of that Convention to support no man for a legislative office, unless he pledge himself, to use his influence to procure a change in the law of which we complain.

We would suggest, that by adhering to the above resolution, it will not necessarily bring us in collision with party politics, for when the law, and its operations are fairly understood, we believe there will not, to any extent, be two opinions on the subject.

We would then call upon our fellow mechanics, of each political party to select such of their political friends, as will fairly represent their views on this great question.

Previous to the next meeting of the General Assembly, it will be necessary to circulate petitions, setting forth in a brief, but forcible manner, objections to the law, praying the Legislature to make such alterations in it, as will remedy the evil, these petitions should be sent to our respective Representatives, as early as the second week of the Session, in order that there may be sufficient time for deliberation. Will you come forward and help? There is nothing to discourage but every thing to encourage us in the present aspect of affairs, let us then make a vigorous and determined rally, and we will assuredly succeed. Very respectfully your obd't serv't.

THOS. F. SHIELDS,  
REUBEN CHASE,  
CHAS. BREYFOGLE,  
JOHN FUNSTON,  
JOHN WALTON,

Columbus, Aug. 1, 1844.

N. B. We are sorry to see such apathy, on the part of the great majority of the Editors and publishers of newspapers in the State, very few of them have noticed, and fewer still have published our proceedings. Now, why is this? A very large portion of the people of the State are Mechanics, they can command as much influence, as any other of equal number, most of them subscribe and pay for a newspaper, their interests are as dear to them, and they have as much at stake as any other class.

We would then most earnestly, though respectfully call upon editors, and publishers of newspapers, in the State, to publish this Circular.

No Democrat should be deterred from doing his duty, his whole duty, to the party, by the empty menaces or malicious slanders of opponents. To be libelled and calumniated, is a tax that all ardent and efficient men have to pay.—It is unpleasant to be growled at by puppies, or to be beset by bullies, but every Democrat that does his duty in a political canvass must expect it. To use the language of the Kentucky Yeoman, "Democrats who are thus assailed, should only take it for granted that their work in the good cause is producing its proper fruits, and should be stimulated by such conduct, to redouble their efforts to overthrow the tyrannical dynasty which would prostrate them politically and personally."—Eastern Argus.

## THE UNION.

Sixty eight years have rolled by, and still it (the Union) withstands the shocks of factional violence. Can it ever fall? Will the American people permit the consecrated ashes of a Washington, a Hancock, a Green, and their able compeers, to be desecrated by the footsteps of anarchy—the constellated banner of united America to be plucked from the talons of the eagle and trodden down by the faithless sons of Columbia, or torn into shreds by domestic and foreign violence? Never! No, never! They will when the stability of the Constitution is jeopardized as one man, the beacon fires of liberty will be lighted upon every hill of this happy country; the spirit of the immortal Washington will be infused into every bosom to rise, to arm, for the institutions of their own country, and preserve them from the least the slightest violence.

Party spirit, based on differences about measures, may do its worst. Americans have differed—can differ as to men and measures—their differences serve to keep alive the genuine spirit of liberty, and to purge it from the impurities which would otherwise defile it; but principles are, must be, eternal.

The Union on which they are based must and will, we trust, ever be preserved; not, however, by yielding any of the essence of civil and religious liberty; not by frittering away those great landmarks which make the rights of the States the welfare of the people; not by unrighteous and oppressive laws against which our forefathers of the preceding century rebelled, and rebelling threw under their feet, but with the aid of an overruling Providence, which directs the destinies of nations, as he controls the actions of men; by the majority respecting the rights of a patriotic minority—by conciliation—by compromise, which gave birth to our glorious Constitution, and by concession to reason, to patriotism, and to justice.

To love his country, one must idolize the Union of these States. To love the Union, the Constitution must be respected—must be strictly construed. Otherwise, consolidation rears its crest, and anarchy succeeds, to blast with the torch of the incendiary the towering fabric of American liberty, based on constitutional order.—Savannah Georgian.

ANNEXATION.—We have frequently heard some of our whig friends object to the annexation of Texas because by so doing, we would have the debt of the country entailed upon us. Let us examine this matter a little. It is estimated that Texas contains about 203,520,000 acres of land, of this amount something like 67,408,673 acres have already been disposed of by that government, leaving a balance of 136,111,326 acres of the public lands yet unsold, and which would become the property of the United States the moment Texas was brought in. Well, this at \$1.25 per acre (the government price) would amount to the enormous sum of 174,391,575 dollars; and if the United States had to pay the debt of Texas which we presume she is able to do herself, being stated to be only \$10,000,000, we would have a balance in our favor of \$164,391,575! But if half of the land should be entirely worthless and could not be sold, yet in that case we would make a clear gain of \$82,195,782, enough to defray the expenses of government for some time.—There are many other advantages presenting themselves in the acquirement of Texas, which we shall probably refer to again. It seems to us every thing considered, that there cannot be any weighty objections brought against extending the healthful institutions and laws of this country over that of Texas at a proper time.—Democratic Star.

"The Boston Post" (says the Salem Gazette, a thorough-going whig paper), "exposes with just indignation, a scandalous forgery, published in an Ohio paper, giving a pretended list of members of the Massachusetts Legislature, who have 'come out under their own signatures and renounced Polk.' Whenever an imposture of this kind is discovered, the rascal who perpetrates it, should be lashed by all honest men."

## THE ROCHESTER 'CALL.'

The Rochester Daily Advertiser of Saturday contains the disclaimer of four other democrats whose names were appended to a call for a "Democratic meeting" in Monroe county, on the subject of annexation, which appeared in the whig organ, and has been vauntingly paraded by the Federal presses generally. These four are, John G. Rhines, Ebenezer F. Hart, John M. Fowler, and John Scott. They all declare that they were deceived as to the character of the call, and avow themselves for Polk and Dallas. The renunciations already numbered 31.—[Albany Argus.

Among the curious things produced by the revolutions of trade and commercial enterprise, is to see the inhabitants of one continent, at latitude forty-two, supplying the inhabitants of another continent, in latitude fifty-four, with ice.—A letter from Liverpool, to the Boston Atlas, dated the 14th ult., says: "The latest enterprise from New England is a regular agency here and in London for the sale of ice. The ship Dochester, the first regular packet of Train's new line," from Boston to this port, recently arrived in the Mersey, loaded with ice. She has not been able, hitherto, to discharge her cargo, as no suitable place could be obtained for it. Mr. Delano, a gentleman from Boston, has been here and in London negotiating with large houses to supply them regularly with Yankee ice, and thus far he has had very good success. He informed me that the British and North American Royal Mail Steam packet Company have contracted for a constant supply for their steamers—and the principal hotels here and in London, and packet ships to New York, have done the same. Mr. Delano is quite encouraged to go largely into this new trade, and no doubt it will prove a profitable speculation. A portion of the Dochester's cargo passed through the streets this morning, for the ice house, and attracted much attention."

AN EXECUTION.—The New York Tribune thus speaks of an execution in that State.

"On Friday last, a youth of 18 was executed at Carmar, Putnam county, for the murder of an old man. He died impenitent and hardened. The law of this State determines that executions shall be private—but this miserable youth was taken from the jail dressed in white, with the rope round his neck, to the front of the Court house, where a table was placed with a chair upon it, upon which he was seated, exposed to the gaze of some 2000 people until half past 3 o'clock, when he was taken into a temporary enclosure erected near the jail, with some 40 or 50 persons inside of it, and hanged. While the clergymen of whom there were 4, addressed him, the people were fighting and rioting immediately within the sound of their voices—and his sister waiting with a wagon to take the dead body away."

ANECDOTE.—When Gen. Jackson was returning to the Hermitage, after the end of his second Presidential term, he stopped at a neighboring town to receive the congratulations of his friends. One of the persons introduced to him led towards one of his travelling companions and asked the General—"who is that gentleman?" That, sir, replied the old Hero, "is Col. Polk, one of the foremost men in the country, sir—you ought to know him—every body ought to know him,—and calling Col. Polk to his side he introduced him to his visitors. Such is the estimate which the Hero of the Hermitage places upon Colonel Polk. He has tried him and found him worthy.—(N. Y. Plebeian.

## A GOOD JOKE.

A few days since, a democrat, in conversation with a whig, stated that there was no difference between Mr. Clay and Col. Polk, on the tariff. This the whig of course denied, when the democrat took from his pocket the remarks of Mr. Clay at Raleigh, as published in the Tribune, telling him at the same time it was from Col. Polk. The whig got into a towering passion, and declared every word of it to be hostile to the tariff. His disappointment may be imagined when the paper was shown to him, and he found it to be the language of Clay instead of Polk.—(Corland Democrat.

IMPORTANT CHANGE.—Another distinguished advocate of federalism in Baltimore city has left the party. Robert Brent, Esq., addressed a democratic Ward meeting and renounced all connexion with federalism. This is the general cry from every quarter—the people are coming for the purpose of joining the standard of Democracy, and planting it in triumph at the Capitol in November next. Dem Press.

An Irish editor in Ballyshannon, in the northwest part of Ireland, was one day excessively occupied, in fact, he had worked harder than usual for the mail had failed. At 11 o'clock at night the "devil" came to him and stated that they still wanted "three sticks," to fill up. "Och," said the editor, "I am tired out completely. Tell Mr. McMahon, the clerk to write an account of the murder of a natural born babe by its unnatural mother, in Baltimore." Away went the "devil," and returned in about twenty minutes, stating that there was still a half stick wanting. "What! again?" said the editor, "may the devil fly away with the paper. Tell the clerk to contradict the report." This was done and the paper went to press, much to the consolation of the editor. [Ex paper.